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Photos above show Boyne Navigation, Booterstown Marsh and Kanturk Castle just some of our properties.

## Transport Workshop

James Nix (co-author with Frank McDonald of *Chaos at the Crossroads*) and James Leahy (of biketowork.ie) will lead a workshop on transport policy and investment, covering:

- Inter-urban transport: motorway construction and rail investment today and over the next 2 - 3 years,
- Urban transport: metro, Luas and bus investment today and over the next 2 - 3 years,
- Key issues in the Public

Transport Regulation Bill,

- Cycling policy documents and recent competitions,
- and Aviation policy, in particular the "public service obligation" subsidies and the continuation of airport construction.

The presentation will be about 40 minutes followed by plenty of time for questions, answers and debate. This is a great opportunity both to learn about the current issues facing Ireland in the transport sector and also to lend your own expertise to help

An Taisce formulate transport policy. The workshop (part of the new policy series) will take place on **Wed, December 2, at 18:00 in Tailors' Hall.**



## New Energy forum— achieving Renewable energy targets

At a meeting held on the 5th of November in Dublin, facilitated by An Taisce, a significant step was taken towards achieving Ireland's target of 40% renewable energy electricity generation by 2020.

The new National Energy forum met in IBEC's Head office in Dublin, gathering cross sectoral/societal stakeholders together for the first time around one table at the same time. The meeting was held under strict Chatham House Rules, which meant that a free expression of views could take place with confidence that those views would remain confidential. The rules led to a full, frank and open discussion between attendees.

The event was more than

just a talking shop: active listening, discussions and workshops led toward the aim of the day: the assignment of positive actions to be carried out by delegates and their organisations, which will move Ireland a step closer to achieving our renewable energy electricity targets.

The need for a National Energy forum was identified by An Taisce's energy Officer, Elizabeth Muldowney, who, having attended numerous planning oral hearings for energy projects realised that communications between stakeholders, whilst taking place, were not designed in such a way as to lead to meaningful constructive outcomes.

"An Taisce is aware that today's forum will not

solve all existing problems immediately, nor are we naïve enough to believe that we are the only group addressing the 40% targets," said Elizabeth Muldowney, "however, reaching those targets is a participatory process to which we are pleased to contribute on an on-going basis."

An Taisce, as a charitable, non-governmental body, is seen as an "honest broker" in the issue. With nothing to gain from the process other than worthwhile movement towards renewable electricity targets, we are in a position to work with a wide range of groups, organisations and individuals, bringing them together to communicate and take action. The event was chaired by the highly respected Joe Harford, who also chairs the government's high level action group on Green Enterprise.



## Hunt is on for Heritage Trees

The larch tree (right) is 5 m tall and 21 m wide, apparently pressed into this shape by roosting turkeys!

A survey of the Heritage Trees of Ireland is being undertaken by the Tree Council of Ireland in association with, and part-funded by, The Heritage Council, Crann and The Irish Tree Society. They are looking for help in finding out about as many trees as possible and would be extremely grateful if An Taisce members could tell them about any they know of and spread this request around to as many people as possible. eg, through historical societies, archaeological groups, community groups, environmental groups.

A heritage tree can be defined as one of cultural, ecological or historical interest because of its age, size or condition. The project is being undertaken as an extension of the Tree Register of Ireland which is a record of Ireland's Champion Trees.

We want our heritage and an-

cient trees to survive as long as possible and to do this we need to protect them. The only way we can do this is to know where they are. We need to find them, map them, photograph them and record them.

We want to hear about giant, important, mysterious, sacred, historical, fabulous, bizarre-looking or ancient trees, and generally trees with a story! There are all sorts of trees that would qualify for inclusion, for example: rag trees; hanging trees; trees at holy wells, military trees (planted in military formation to commemorate battles); those of exceptional girth, height or age; any associated with historical events, people or structures; and those which are important to a community.

Some of the most well-known examples are the 'Hungry' Tree at King's Inns, Dublin which is a London plane that appears to be eating a bench;

Lady Gregory's 'Autograph' Tree at Coole Park, South Galway, a copper beech which has been signed by WB Yeats, his brother Jack, George Bernard Shaw, the poet John Masefield, Sean O'Casey and other famous people.

However, not all heritage trees are so dramatic; they can, in fact, be quite unremarkable in appearance. For example, a lone hawthorn tree has been included in the survey as it marks the summit of Freestone Hill, Co. Kilkenny and folklore prevents its removal.

If anyone has information on any trees like these the Tree council would be delighted to hear from you! You can contact us on the website, [www.treecouncil.ie](http://www.treecouncil.ie) or email Kate Crane: [cranoggin@eircom.net](mailto:cranoggin@eircom.net) or telephone: 01 4931313 (Tree Council of Ireland).

It's easy to feel overwhelmed by climate change but it doesn't have to be this way. What if we resolved to cut 10% of our emissions in 2010?

## 10:10 Campaign Manager

We mentioned in the last newsletter that we were searching for a new manager for the vitally important 10:10 campaign which is an ambitious project which aims to unite every sector of Irish society behind one simple idea: that by working together we can achieve a 10% cut in Ireland's carbon emissions in 2010. To drive this essential project we welcome campaign manager, John Hesnan.

Prior to 1991 John enjoyed an extensive career in the development of technology-based solutions with Digital Equipment Corporation. John is a

graduate of University College Galway and has also completed numerous courses in Engineering and Business Development. From 1991 to 2008 John designed and patented a series of products, which he then licensed out. For the last 8 years John was CEO of Gemini Solutions which designed five world class products, now sold worldwide. These products are interactive animated software learning tools for people of all ages and abilities. John has extensive experience in research, new product design

and development, project management, patenting, licensing, negotiating, fundraising, presenting, training and marketing. John recently ran a major nationwide campaign for a leading Irish charity organisation.

Go to [www.1010.ie](http://www.1010.ie) to sign up for this campaign.



## Chocolate Box



**Life is like a box of chocolates...**

members could volunteer for those which personally resonated with them.

As we come up with such initiatives, we'll present them as "chocolates" here in the newsletter. Local Associations that are in need of manpower for specific tasks/projects should feel free to forward them to me ([jeff@rokeby.ie](mailto:jeff@rokeby.ie)) for inclusion in the "box". Each chocolate will include contact details to allow interested members to get involved.

Our box begins with a single flavour:

*Events Organizers.* To further engage our members, we'd like

to organize more zero-cost social events. Ideas have included Dublin North's bring-your-own-booze-and-burger BBQs and Meath's picnics held at various heritage sites. If interested in organizing one (or more) such event, please contact :

Richard Darby

[darby.richard@gmail.com](mailto:darby.richard@gmail.com)

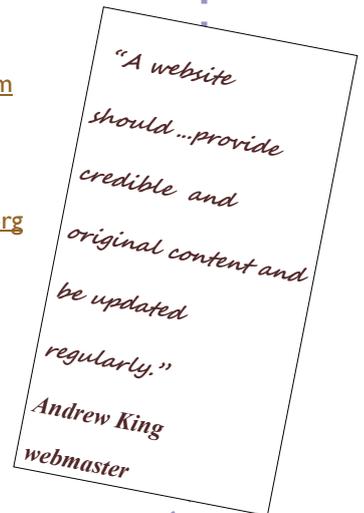
or Abby McSherry

[membership@antaisce.org](mailto:membership@antaisce.org)

We have had several requests from members for opportunities to get more involved. At the same time, the Board of Management often comes up with promising initiatives, but with insufficient manpower to develop them. Richard Darby introduced the idea of a "box of chocolates" where various initiatives requiring development could be presented, and

## Website design and updating

We're looking for some help to keep the website up-to-date, and to make some much-needed improvements to its presentation and accessibility. If you're reasonably computer savvy with some design experience, please contact Jeff Young ([jeff@rokeby.ie](mailto:jeff@rokeby.ie)).



## Planning Toolkit for Environmental Protection

An Taisce is offering a FREE one day workshop on the development process and how Irish and European planning laws can regulate to ensure the best outcome for the environment.

WHERE: Tailor's Hall  
WHEN: 7th December  
9.30am - 5.00pm

WHO: Local Association members, NGOs, campaigners, community activists, ecologists and interested individuals

Programme  
Development Plans Gavin Daly  
The Developers view of the

process Tom Dunne DIT  
The Planning Process, Applications and appeals Ian Lumley AnT  
Forestry and aquaculture Applications Anja Murray AnT  
EIA, SEA and the Habitats Directive Andrew Jackson  
In 1964, when modern planning laws were introduced in Ireland, An Taisce was officially given the role of reviewing any planning applications that might affect the built and natural heritage of the country. An Taisce has thus become a key player in the planning process in Ire-

land and has developed much expertise around how people can participate effectively to ensure better regulation of development that might otherwise damage the environment. Many professionals and campaigners in the sector find they are not always getting the right results and a better understanding of the planning process may help focus work on the most direct routes to success.

Costs. There is no

charge for the day. Sandwiches will be provided at lunch-time. People travelling from outside Dublin may be able to claim up to 50 euro travelling expenses payable against receipts.

Please book early with Carol, Office Manager An Taisce  
[admin@antaisce.org](mailto:admin@antaisce.org) or phone 01 454 1786 before 3.30pm Monday-Friday

Or contact Judy Osborne, organiser.  
[judyosborne@esatclear.ie](mailto:judyosborne@esatclear.ie)  
086 36 99 575 anytime

# A Happy coincidence

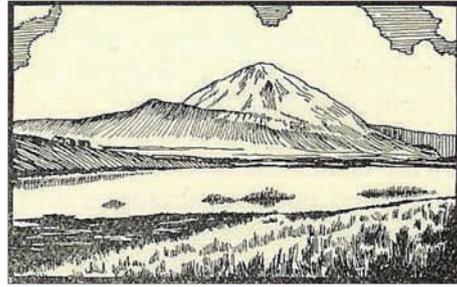
[A happy coincidence? – two views of Errigal from the shores of Lough Nancung below Crocnafarragh Co Donegal](#)

On the 10<sup>th</sup> October 1948 R.L. Praeger the great man of Irish conservation and founding president of An Taisce, The National Trust for Ireland, gave his famous radio address which set out the organisation's agenda and is as topical today as it was then. The address was published by An Taisce and printed by the Four Candles Press and was accompanied by a woodcut of a typical Irish mountain landscape. The Four Candles was then owned by Colm O Lochlainn (father of John O'Loughlin Kennedy former Director of An Taisce) a member of the first council who suggested the name An Taisce as the title in Irish for Ireland's new National Trust at the founding meeting in Dublin's Mansion House in 1946. He made the donation of the woodcut to An Taisce to use as it wishes, the artist is unknown but it is suggested to be in the style of McGonigal or Paul Henry RHA, both whom were noted for these type of landscapes.

In 1969, T. J. O'Driscoll the former Director of Bord Failte and President of An Taisce arranged the transfer of almost 6,500 acres of land from The Land Commission at Crocnafarragh (now leased as part of Glenveagh

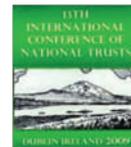
National Park) to An Taisce. The donated land includes the land from which the artist of the woodcut based the view prior to 1948. As can be seen from the adjoining photograph taken by John Ducie in 2005 little has changed except for some new houses creeping up the flanks of Errigal.

In seeking a suitable Irish theme for the logo of the 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference of National Trusts at the close of our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations we decided to use the print as it linked our foundation with our largest property and showed an Irish heritage landscape over sixty years ago and one which An Taisce is proud to be still safeguarding. Dawn Parkinson designed the logo which is being currently viewed by all who visit [www.internationaltrusts.org](http://www.internationaltrusts.org) where a podcast of the conference is also available to be seen.



If you know who the artist was or can tell anymore of the story of why it was chosen or how Crocnafarragh was acquired by An Taisce

please contact John Ducie at [properties@antaisce.org](mailto:properties@antaisce.org).



**An Taisce**  
*The National Trust for Ireland*

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Dublin 8

Phone: 01 4541786

E-mail concerning issues in this ezine:

[jeff@rokeby.ie](mailto:jeff@rokeby.ie)

general enquiries [admin@antaisce.org](mailto:admin@antaisce.org)

**Preserving our built and natural  
heritage for future generations**

**Your views are important to An Taisce. Please don't hesitate to send us any feedback on content, format, etc. of this newsletter, and if there are any topics in particular that you'd like to see covered, we'll do our best to get them in.**

Sincerely,

**Jeff Young**

**Hon Secretary, [jeff@rokeby.ie](mailto:jeff@rokeby.ie)**

**and Abby McSherry, Local Associations Officer**

**[membership@antaisce.org](mailto:membership@antaisce.org)**